

# **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant Solicitation Announcement and Guidance**

DUE DATE FOR NOTICE OF INTENT: **June 2, 2014**

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATION: **September 2, 2014**

## **I. Overview**

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is seeking applications for projects that will reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in Indiana's lakes, rivers, and streams. Funding for selected projects will be provided by Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 NPS Management Program grant funds. This document describes the §319 grant program, who can apply for funding, funding priorities for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 application solicitation, match requirements, activities ineligible for funding, how to apply for funding, and other information that will help you plan your project and submit a competitive application.

A two-phase application process will be used for FFY 2015 §319 grant funds. The first phase requires an applicant to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) by the NOI due date. The NOI is a formal announcement of the intent to prepare an application for §319 funding and a brief description of the project. NOI requirements are outlined in Section VII below. Section 319 Applications will only be accepted from applicants who submitted an approved NOI.

The second phase requires a complete §319 application (State Form 49367) by the due date. Application requirements are outlined in Section VIII below. Projects selected for funding will be executed through grant agreements and may begin when the agreement is fully signed by the State, likely in the last quarter of 2015.

## **II. IDEM'S Nonpoint Source Program**

The CWA §319 provides funding for various types of projects that work to reduce NPS water pollution. Nonpoint source pollution does not come from a pipe, but results when water (rain or snowmelt) moves across land, such as city streets, agricultural fields and residential areas, and picks up sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, animal wastes, motor oil and other pollutants. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems in Indiana and is responsible for many of the impairments identified on the CWA § 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. IDEM's §319 NPS Program provides funding and technical assistance to groups that work with citizens to develop locally-based solutions to NPS pollution. Specific ways to address NPS water pollution include conducting watershed inventories and water quality assessments for the purpose of developing comprehensive watershed management plans (WMPs); implementing approved WMPs, including implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that directly reduce sources of NPS pollution; and education and outreach on watershed management.

- A. To be considered for §319 funding, the project sponsor (the entity responsible for the project and its overall success), must be one of the following:
  - 1. Municipality
  - 2. County Government
  - 3. State Government
  - 4. Federal Government
  - 5. College/University
  - 6. Nonprofit 501(c) (3)

### III. Section 319 Grant Funding Priorities For FFY 2015

In an effort to more efficiently meet our NPS Program goals, coordinate with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program and its efforts to identify and reduce NPS pollution, and focus more of the §319 funds on impaired waters, IDEM identifies priority projects for §319 funds each year. Below are the four priorities for FFY 2015 funds.

- A. In order to continue to make measurable improvements in water quality in Indiana, and to prioritize watersheds for actions focused on reducing nutrient loading in coordination with the Indiana Conservation Partnership, IDEM's NPS Program is prioritizing funding on watershed management plan implementation projects addressing nutrients in the following Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) watersheds:
  - East Fork White River Basin (HUCs 05120204-Driftwood, 05-Flatrock Haw, 06-Upper East Fork White, 07-Muscatatuck, 08-Lower East Fork White)
  - Wabash River Basin (HUCs 05120101-Upper Wabash, 02-Salamonie, 03-Mississinewa, 04-Upper Eel, 05-Middle Wabash-Deer, 06-Tippecanoe, 07-Wildcat, 08-Middle Wabash-Little Vermillion, 09-Vermillion, 10-Sugar, 11-Middle Wabash-Busseron, 13-Lower Wabash)
- B. Watershed planning and/or implementation projects in watersheds with one or more impaired waterbodies that have an approved TMDL.
- C. Watershed planning and/or implementation projects in watersheds that include waterbodies in Category 5A of Indiana's Draft 2012 Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report.
- D. Implementation of watershed management plans that have met, or will soon meet, IDEM's Watershed Management Plan 2003 or 2009 Checklist.

§319 eligible projects that address NPS pollution in Indiana but do not meet one of the FFY 2015 priorities above will also be reviewed and considered for funding.

The [Indiana State NPS Management Plan](#) guides the NPS Management Program and its use of §319 funds. The plan, which was revised this year, describes Indiana's strategies for reducing and preventing NPS through program implementation. Since all activities and projects must be designed to implement the NPS Management Plan, applicants are encouraged to review it before submitting an NOI; specifically the Goals and Management Measures section.

Questions on eligible activities and funding priorities should be addressed to Bonny Elifritz, Watershed Planning and Restoration Section Chief, at 317-308-3082 or email at [belifrit@idem.IN.gov](mailto:belifrit@idem.IN.gov).

### IV. Funding Availability

IDEM anticipates that the amount of FFY 2015 funds available for NPS projects will be approximately \$2.2 million. Funds will be awarded through a competitive grants process. In accordance with U.S. EPA's revised guidelines for the award of §319 grants for the implementation of NPS Management Programs, the majority of these funds must go toward restoring impaired waters through implementation of approved watershed management plans. Projects may not exceed 4 years.

### V. Grant Match Requirements For Section 319 Projects

IDEM provides sixty percent (60%) of an approved project's total cost with grant funds. A grant recipient must provide the remaining forty percent (40%) of the total project cost as match. This match is required for all approved projects. For example, if the proposed project has a TOTAL cost of \$250,000, the

maximum amount of grant funds this project could receive would be \$150,000 and the project sponsor would have to provide a match of \$100,000. Match may be cash or in-kind services. Match cannot come from any federal funding sources or in-kind services of federally-funded positions. For guidance on match and match eligibility see <http://www.in.gov/ide/nps/3403.htm#match>.

## **VI. Activities Not Supported By Section 319 Funding In Indiana**

Although there are many ways to address nonpoint source pollution, there are limitations on what §319 funds can be used for as a part of a funded project. Please carefully review the [Match and Grant Eligibility Guidance for Sections 319 and 205 Grant Projects](#) for information on activities that cannot be funded with §319 funds in Indiana and, unless noted otherwise, cannot be counted as match for a §319 grant. Note that this is not comprehensive and there may be other items that come to our attention that are not eligible.

## **VII. Complete and Submit A Notice Of Intent**

- A. The project sponsor must send an NOI email to [NPSGRANTS@idem.IN.gov](mailto:NPSGRANTS@idem.IN.gov) by **June 2, 2014**, with the information below in numbered order. It is recommended that you copy your Watershed Specialist (see Section IX) on the email.

1. Name of the project
2. Name of the sponsoring organization
3. Grant funding priority (from Section III) the project is addressing, if applicable
4. Watershed name(s) and 10-digit and/or 12-digit HUC(s) in the project area
5. Type of project (planning, implementation, other)
6. General description (1 or 2 paragraphs) of the proposed project
7. Committed/anticipated project partners

IDEM will acknowledge receipt of the NOI when the email is received in the NPSGRANTS inbox. NOIs will be reviewed for completeness and project eligibility for §319 funds. NOIs that are incomplete, received after the due date, or are for projects that are ineligible for §319 funds will be eliminated from competition. If there is a question or concern about your NOI, IDEM will contact you. Applicants may withdraw their NOI at any time during the application development process. Please notify IDEM if you do not intend to proceed with your application.

**NOTE:** IDEM is not responsible for any technical malfunctions or Web site problems related to email submissions. Applicants should send their email in advance of the submission deadline to avoid problems.

## **VIII. Complete and Submit An Application**

- A. Complete the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Application (State Form 49367). Current grant application instructions, forms, and important information may be obtained from the following website: <http://www.in.gov/ide/nps/3388.htm>

Read the application instructions carefully before completing the application. Application forms from previous years will not be accepted.

Applications are evaluated on a number of criteria, including:

1. All requested application information is provided in all sections
2. Project addresses one or more of the core priorities (Section III)
3. Application demonstrates a clear understanding of the NPS issues within the watershed
4. Application demonstrates a clear and feasible plan to address the NPS issues within the watershed

5. Application clearly demonstrates partnerships and partnership commitments
6. Project will result in water quality benefits that extend beyond the life of the project
7. Budget for the proposed project demonstrates fiscal responsibility
8. Applicant has demonstrated success with previously funded projects, if applicable
9. Education/outreach efforts are targeted and designed to bring about behavioral changes that will lead to reduced NPS pollution in the watershed and, for implementation projects, are focused on promoting cost share and implementing BMPs.

B. Complete each of the following steps by the noted deadline.

**1. Email a copy of the completed application by the deadline to:**

[NPSGRANTS@idem.IN.gov](mailto:NPSGRANTS@idem.IN.gov)

**2. Mail an original, signed, and completed application to:**

Indiana Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Quality, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch  
100 North Senate Avenue  
MC 65-44 Shadeland  
Indianapolis IN 46204-2251

- C. Your electronic submittal must be received by IDEM on or before **September 2, 2014** AND your mailed copy must be postmarked no later than **September 2, 2014**. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered. It is recommended that you copy your Watershed Specialist (see Section IX) on the email. NOTE: IDEM is not responsible for any technical malfunctions or Web site problems related to email submissions. Applicants should send their email in advance of the submission deadline to avoid problems.

IDEM will acknowledge the receipt of the application email when it is received in the NPSGRANTS inbox. Applications will initially be reviewed administratively for completeness and eligibility for §319 funds. Applications that are incomplete, received after the due date, or are ineligible for funding (including applicants that didn't submit an NOI) will be eliminated from competition. Applicants failing administrative review will be notified by email by September 12, 2014. All other applications will be forwarded for technical review. IDEM anticipates notifying applicants of the results of the technical review by December 31, 2014.

## IX. Other Resources

For additional information visit the web sites listed below.

- Indiana's Section 319 Grant Program, including information and guidance about project requirements: <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3378.htm>
- National Section 319 Program: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/cwact.cfm>
- Watershed Management Plan Guidance and the Watershed Management Plan Checklist (2009): <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3429.htm>
- Draft 2012 Indiana 303(d) List of Impaired Waters: <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/2647.htm>
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program, including TMDL reports: <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/2347.htm>

- The Region 5 Pollutant Load Estimation Model, which may be used to provide load estimations: [http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/steplweb/models\\$docs.htm](http://it.tetratech-ffx.com/steplweb/models$docs.htm)
- Quality Assurance Project Plan guidance: <http://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3383.htm>

There are several IDEM staff members who can provide guidance on project development; however, we recommend that you first contact the [Watershed Specialist](#) serving your region of the state.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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